

Decisive Battle

The Battle of Droop Mountain was a decisive battle in that it expelled the Confederates from that section of West Virginia and from then on to the end of the war between the states, West Virginia was Federal territory.

In his report of the battle, General Echols states: "My artillery and trains were brought safely through with the exception of one brass howitzer belonging to Chapman's battery which broke down completely during the retreat and had to be left, this offering the enemy the only trophy of which they can "boast." This cannon is supposed to have been buried in the swamp on Droop Mountain, and although diligent search has been made it has not yet been found. It is hoped that it will be located in due time.

In the course of the conflict, Colonel James Cochran, commander of the 14th Virginia cavalry, was surrounded by a squad of Union soldiers and apparently doomed to capture. By some means, however, he managed to escape. Later in relating the story, he was asked why, under the circumstances, he did not surrender, Colonel Cochran replied: "If they had said 'Colonel, surrender' I would have done so. But they said, 'stop, you blankety-blank red-headed son of a gun,' and I would not accommodate any man who used such language to me."

The Federal troops engaged numbered 4,700 and suffered a loss of 130 casualties. The Confederates had 3950 engaged and their losses were about 400 men.

Troops Engaged

On the Federal side the organizations were the 28th Ohio Infantry, Col. A Moor; 10th West Virginia Infantry, Col. T. M. Harris; 2nd West Virginia Infantry, Col. F. W. Thompson; 8th West Virginia Infantry, Co. J. H. Oley; 14th Penn Cavalry, Col. J. N. Schoonmaker; and Gibson's Battalion and Batteries B and G, 1st West Virginia Light Artillery.

The Confederate organizations engaged were the 22nd Infantry Col. C. S. Patton; First Battalion 23rd Virginia Infantry, Major William Blessing; 19th Virginia Cavalry, Col. W. P. Thompson; 20th Virginia cavalry, Col. W. W. Arnett; 14th Virginia Cavalry, Col. James Cochran; 16th Virginia Cavalry, Co. Ferguson and an artillery detachment of two ~~battalions~~ battalions and two batteries.

Last year the State Conservation Commission, headed by Major H. W. Shawhan, acquired the site of the battle of Droop Mountain and for more than 14 months Company 2598 CCC, under the command of Capt. E. R. Howery, and directed by the efficient technical service at Camp Price, has been engaged in the task of restoring the battlefield to its war time aspect and transforming it into a public park, which the people of West Virginia, and visitors to the state may have the privilege of enjoying on their motor trips through that section of the country. A map of the battlefield has been prepared and is available to visitors at Droop Mountain. The gun placements, trenches and breastworks are to be restored and points of interest are to be marked permanently.

The public is cordially invited to visit the Battlefield of Droop Mountain, with a confidence that they will there find something that will interest them. It is to be hoped that this flash

After The Civil War.

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of State History will have served the purpose of inducing
them to do so.

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Clover Lick, W. Va.
Pocahontas County
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After The Civil War.

Because of the division of sentiment Pocahontas County suffered far more than other counties farther north or south. In many instances brother fought against brother. After the war was over, it was a subject not talked about because of the intense feeling that survived the war.

It used to make the Confederates grit their teeth when they saw the Union soldiers wear their blue army overcoats. When the first grand jury met, after the war, the blue overcoats predominated and the Confederates said it looked like a squad of Union soldiers.

(My grandfather I. W. Poage would never wear blue nor allow any member of his family to do so. He always said "You look too much like a ---- Yankie".)

When the first grand jury met was a sad day for the Confederates for most of the prominent Confederate warriors were indicted upon charges ranging from murder down. But the resentment occasioned by the war became somewhat mellowed by the wisdom of the leading men and a condition of toleration was produced. While the soldiers continued to vote as they had shot, it was nothing more than healthy rivalry, and they worked together very well.

From 1928 W. Va. Blue
Book .

By, Andrew Price.

After the Civil War the Confederate soldiers were deprived of the rights of citizenship by their inability to take the test oath. Before a man could vote, hold office, practice law and so forth, he must swear that he had not sided or abetted the Confederacy. This did not please Captain D. A. Stofer who had been captain of the "Pocahontas Rescuers" and of Co. 1, 25th Virginia Inf. At the first opportunity he presented himself at the bar as a practicing attorney, took the oath and resumed his law work, where he left off. After four years of service in the army of the Confederate States. The grand jury indicted him for perjury and he appealed to the Supreme Court, where the